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10/566,327

01/27/2006

Kenji Ogawa

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RATNERPRESTIA

P.O. BOX 980

VALLEY FORGE, PA 19482

EXAMINER

MCCOMMAS, STUART S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2629

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/566,327 | Applicant(s) OGAWA ET AL. | |
| | Examiner Stuart McCommas | Art Unit 2629 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2/9/2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-2 and 4-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4 and 5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1/13/2010 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-2 and 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura (United States Patent Application Publication 2002/0021264), hereinafter referenced as Nakamura, in view of Kim et al. (United States Patent 7,109,951), hereinafter referenced as Kim, and further in view of Homma (United States Patent Application Publication 2001/0020923), hereinafter referenced as Homma.

Regarding claim 1, Nakamura discloses a method of driving a plasma display panel 15, the plasma display panel including discharge cells 16, each discharge cell

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formed at an intersection of a scan electrode and a sustain electrode, and a data electrode (figure 3), the method comprising:

dividing one field period into a plurality of sub-fields, each sub-field having an initializing or priming discharge period with an erasure period, a writing period, and sustaining period (figure 9; figure 12);

performing in the priming discharge period and in the erasure period either an all cell initializing operation or a selective initializing operation, where the all-cell initializing operation causes initializing discharge in all the discharge cells for displaying an image (paragraphs 58-63; paragraphs 90-98; figure 8; figure 9; figure 12) and the selective initializing operation selectively causes initializing discharge using the erasure pulse P_e only in the discharge cells where sustaining pulses and sustaining discharge occurred in the previous sub-field (paragraph 63; paragraphs 90-98; figure 9; figure 12). Further Nakamura discloses that each of the initializing periods for performing the all-cell initializing operation has a former half part and a latter half part of the priming discharge period (figure 9), where in the former half part there is application of an ascending ramp waveform voltage P_p to the scan electrodes that causes a first initializing discharge using the scan electrodes as anodes and the sustain electrodes and data electrodes as cathodes (paragraph 60; figure 9) and where in the latter half part, application of a descending ramp waveform voltage P_{pe} which is ranging from a voltage with the same polarity as the voltage applied during the former half part of initialization period of a voltage reverse in polarity thereto, to the scan electrodes causes a second initializing discharge using the scan electrodes as the cathodes and the sustain electrodes and

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data electrodes as the anodes (paragraph 60; figure 9). Further Nakamura discloses that in the initializing period for performing the selective initializing operation, a descending ramp waveform voltage is applied to the scan electrodes, using the scan electrodes as the cathodes and the sustain electrodes and data electrodes as the anodes (paragraph 60; figure 9).

However Nakamura fails to disclose an abnormal charge erasing part and, in the abnormal charge erasing part, applying a rectangular waveform voltage with the same polarity as the voltage during the former half part, followed by applying a rectangular waveform voltage reverse in polarity as the voltage applied during the former half part, to the scan electrodes.

In a similar field of invention Kim discloses an abnormal charge erasing part and, in the abnormal charge erasing part, applying a rectangular waveform voltage with the same polarity as the voltage during the former half part of the initializing period, followed by applying a rectangular waveform voltage, to the scan electrodes (column 8 lines 64-67; column 9 lines 1-25; figure 8).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Nakamura with Kim by specifically providing an abnormal charge erasing part and, in the abnormal charge erasing part, applying a rectangular waveform voltage with the same polarity as the voltage during the former half part of the initializing period, followed by applying a rectangular waveform voltage, to the scan electrodes for the purpose of allowing excess charge to be controlled and

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erased to avoid misfires in a plasma display panel to improve the quality of the display (column 3 lines 27-41).

In a similar field of invention Homma discloses that a positive waveform voltage is applied to the scan electrodes, followed by applying a voltage waveform reverse in polarity as the voltage applied during the former or earlier half part of the initialization period to the scan electrodes (paragraphs 11-20; paragraphs 61-73; figures 8-10).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Nakamura with Homma by specifically providing that a positive waveform voltage is applied to the scan electrodes, followed by applying a voltage waveform reverse in polarity as the voltage applied during the former or earlier half part of the initialization period to the scan electrodes for the purpose of allowing excess charge to be controlled in a plasma display panel to improve the quality of the display (paragraph 15).

Regarding claim 2, Nakamura, Kim and Homma, the combination discloses everything as applied above, further Homma discloses wherein in the abnormal charge erasing part, a voltage is not applied to the sustain electrode when a rectangular waveform voltage with a negative polarity is applied (figures 8-10).

Regarding claim 4, Nakamura, Kim and Homma, the combination discloses everything as applied above, further Nakamura discloses wherein a number of times of all-cell initializing period in the one field period is controlled by determining either the all-cell initializing operation or the selective initializing operation according to an APL (paragraphs 90-98; figure 12).

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Regarding claim 5, Nakamura, Kim and Homma, the combination discloses everything as applied above, further Nakamura discloses wherein a number of times of all-cell initializing period in the one field period is controlled by determining either the all-cell initializing operation or the selective initializing operation according to an APL (paragraphs 90-98; figure 12).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-8 have been considered but are believed to be answered by and therefore moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stuart McCommas whose telephone number is (571)270-3568. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9 AM to 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Eisen can be reached on (571)272-7687. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Stuart McCommas
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2629

SSM

/Alexander Eisen/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2629